

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of simultaneously receiving and processing
multimedia asset packages transmitted by a plurality of
5 multimedia content providers, each multimedia asset package
being transmitted as a plurality of data segments, comprising:

assigning a unique process identification number (PID) to a
frequency band used by each of the multimedia content providers,

10 simultaneously receiving a plurality of data segments from
the plurality of multimedia content providers, wherein the data
segments are tracked using the PID assigned to the frequency
band used by each multimedia content provider,

reconstructing a multimedia asset package transmitted by a
multimedia content provider by compiling the plurality of data
15 segments that constitute the multimedia asset package, and

providing the multimedia asset packages to a video-on-
demand server that transmits at least a portion of a multimedia
asset package to an end user.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein simultaneously
receiving a plurality of data segments comprises receiving at

least three data segments simultaneously from different
multimedia content providers.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein simultaneously
5 receiving a plurality of data segments comprises simultaneously
receiving the plurality of data segments on different frequency
bands.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein simultaneously
10 receiving a plurality of data segments comprises receiving data
segments from each multimedia content provider using a separate
data receiver card for each frequency band used by each content
provider.

15 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a backchannel connection to each multimedia
content provider to enable the multimedia content provider to
track the receipt of data segments transmitted by the multimedia
content provider.

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6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

providing acknowledgements of receipt of a multimedia asset package to the multimedia content provider using the backchannel connection.

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7. The method of claim 5, wherein the backchannel connection is a network connection chosen from the group consisting of an internet connection, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) connection, and a virtual private network (VPN) connection.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein reconstructing a multimedia asset package comprises:

validating the multimedia asset package to confirm successful receipt of the multimedia asset package.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein validating the multimedia asset package comprises:

receiving metadata that accompanies the data segments of the multimedia asset package, and

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analyzing the metadata to determine whether the complete
multimedia asset package is received.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein validating the
5 multimedia asset package occurs before providing the multimedia
asset package to the video-on-demand server.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the multimedia asset
package comprises a movie file, the method comprising:

10 receiving a request for the movie file from the multimedia
asset package from an end user,

comparing metadata associated with the multimedia asset
package with validation logic and business rules restricting the
use of the movie file, and

15 providing the movie file to the end user if the metadata
complies with the validation logic and business rules.

12. The method of claim 1, comprising:

enabling a user to determine an order in which the

multimedia asset packages are provided to the video-on-demand server.

13. A method of simultaneously receiving and processing
5 multiple multimedia asset packages, comprising:

assigning a unique process identification number (PID) to each of a plurality of frequency bands used by a plurality of multimedia content providers,

receiving a plurality of multimedia data segments from the
10 plurality of multimedia content providers, wherein the multimedia data segments are received simultaneously, the multimedia data segments are tracked using the PIDs, and the plurality of multimedia data segments form a complete multimedia asset package,

15 forming a complete multimedia asset package using a plurality of multimedia data segments,

validating the complete multimedia asset to confirm successful receipt of the complete multimedia asset, and

providing each complete multimedia asset package to a
20 video-on-demand server that transmits multimedia assets to end users.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein receiving a plurality
of multimedia data segments comprises simultaneously receiving
at least three multimedia data segments simultaneously from
5 three different multimedia content providers.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein receiving a plurality
of multimedia data segments comprises simultaneously receiving
the plurality of multimedia data segments from different
10 multimedia content providers on different frequency bands, and
the multimedia data segments for a complete multimedia asset
package transmitted by a particular multimedia content provider
are transmitted on a common frequency band.

15 16. The method of claim 13, wherein receiving a plurality
of multimedia data segments comprises receiving multimedia data
segments from different multimedia content providers using a
separate data receiver card for each different frequency band
used by the content providers.

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17. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

providing a backchannel connection to each multimedia content provider to provide each multimedia content provider with acknowledgements of either successful or unsuccessful receipt of a complete multimedia asset package.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the backchannel connection is a network connection chosen from the group consisting of an internet connection, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) connection, and a virtual private
10 network (VPN) connection.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein validating the complete multimedia asset package comprises:

receiving metadata that accompanies the multimedia data
15 segments of the complete multimedia asset package, and

analyzing the metadata to determine whether the complete multimedia asset package has been received.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein validating the
20 complete multimedia asset package occurs before providing the

complete multimedia asset package to the multimedia server.

21. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

providing a portion of the complete multimedia asset
5 package to a requesting end user by comparing metadata
associated with the complete multimedia asset package with
validation logic and business rules governing authorized users
of the asset package, and transmitting the portion of the
complete multimedia asset package to the end user if the
10 metadata complies with the validation logic and business rules.

22. A multimedia catcher receiver, comprising:

a multimedia network interface unit configured to
simultaneously receive a plurality of multimedia data segments
15 sent from a plurality of multimedia content providers and to
provide the multimedia data segments to a receive unit,

a receive unit coupled to the multimedia network interface
unit and configured to reconstruct a complete multimedia asset
package from a plurality of multimedia data segments transmitted
20 by a multimedia content provider, and to validate the complete
multimedia asset package received from the multimedia content

provider, and

a content management system configured to receive
multimedia asset packages from the receive unit, manage the
received multimedia asset packages, and provide the multimedia
5 asset packages to a multimedia server,

wherein each frequency band used by a multimedia content
provider is assigned a unique process identification number
(PID), and the catcher receiver tracks the multimedia asset
packages using at least the PID assigned to the frequency band
10 used by the multimedia content provider.

23. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 22, wherein
the multimedia network interface unit comprises a plurality of
data receiver cards configured to receive satellite
15 transmissions.

24. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 22, wherein
the multimedia network interface unit comprises a plurality of
data receiver cards configured to receive satellite
20 transmissions and a network interface card configured to receive
terrestrial transmissions.

25. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 24, wherein the network interface card comprises an ethernet card.

5 26. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 22, wherein the receive unit comprises a backchannel network to provide a communication pathway between the multimedia catcher receiver and the plurality of multimedia content providers to provide acknowledgements of successful receipt of multimedia asset
10 packages to the multimedia content providers.

27. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 26, wherein the backchannel network is a network connection chosen from the group consisting of an internet connection, a public switched
15 telephone network (PSTN) connection, and a virtual private network (VPN) connection.

28. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 22, comprising an asset receive unit coupled to the receive unit and
20 to the content management system, and capable of processing multimedia asset packages from the receive unit and multimedia

asset packages received from a local source.

29. The multimedia catcher receiver of claim 28, wherein
the asset receive unit comprises at least one data input unit
5 taken from the group consisting of a DVD-based drive and a FTP
server interface.